

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus are disclosed for delivering electronic mail messages to one or more intended recipients with an indication of the presence of the sender. A message recipient can automatically respond to a text-based email message using a non-textual form of communication. The presence server can provide presence information across domains so that a user in one domain can automatically obtain presence information and respond to a user in another domain. A client-side presence enabled email application process (i) retrieves email messages from an email server of a user, (ii) queries a presence server to determine the presence of the sender of each retrieved email message, and (iii) presents the retrieved email message(s) to the recipient with an indication of the presence of the sender. In addition, the disclosed presence enabled email application process allows the message recipient to automatically respond, for example, by an email, instant message or telephone call to a device where the sender is believed to be present.

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